responsive to rapid economic and technological developments occurring both at national and international levels.

Low female literacy

3802. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that quite a good number of low female literacy districts have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to increase female literacy in such districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) According to the Census report 2001, there are 45 districts in the country which have a female literacy below 30%. No district in Andhra Pradesh has a female literacy below 30%. However, continuing education programmes are being implemented in 21 districts of the state, where income generation programmes, quality of life improvement programmes and formation of women's self help groups are taken up alongside programmes for removal of residual illiteracy, particularly among women. The State Government is also implementing the Akshara Sankranti programme where major thrust is being given to improvement of women's literacy.

Results of Central School, Panagarh, West Bengal

†3803. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the examination results and other conditions of the Central School, Panagarh (West Bengal) were pitiable four years back;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the academic results of the school has been found admirable and a drastic change in discipline has been noted for the last three years;

(c) if so, the year-wise details of the efforts made for such improvement during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to make such efforts in other schools too; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether Government propose to provide special facilities to such schools in order to bring them under specific category ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Introduction of water harvesting course in universities

3804. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked the Universities to introduce the course on rain water harvesting;

(b) whether UGC has promised aid in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) It has been decided, in principle, by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to introduce courses in Water Management/ Water Harvesting in the Universities. The model syllabus, guidelines and the modalities etc. for introduction of these courses shall be finalised in due course of time by the Commission with the help of Expert Committees. After finalization of the guidelines and model syllabus by the Commission, the UGC will invite proposals from all the Universities and Technical Institutes.

Teaching Urdu in Central Schools

3805. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Central Schools which have provision of teaching Urdu language; and

(b) the number of Urdu teachers working in Central Schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.